

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method for an early diagnosis of cancer in a subject comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a fecal sample from said subject;
- ii) treating said sample to obtain a feces-derived microorganism sample;
- iii) identifying in the microorganism sample one or more types of microorganisms contained therein; and
- (iv) determining for each of said microorganisms its relative fraction from the total count of microorganisms in said sample, the relative fractions being indicative of the presence or absence of cancer in said subject.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is a human subject.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said microorganisms are isolated by colonies formation on selective culture mediums.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said relative fraction of each of said microorganisms is determined by calculating the percentage of said microorganism from the total, count of microorganisms in the same or corresponding sample.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said microorganism are bacteria.